

Darlene K. Jordan

Activities Director

University Nursing Center



It was Darlene's father, a minister, who gets credit for instilling in her the desire to be a servant. Every Sunday after dinner, her father took her and her sisters to the local county home where a mini-church service was provided. Her father gave the sermonette and Darlene and her sisters sang. Then the family would go through the long wards, from bed to bed.

"Dad would talk with each person and pray with them and he would stand his little girls up on a chair by the beds so that we could be seen, and then we would sing songs for the residents. Dad taught us at an early age to show honor and kindness to people."

Those early lessons and memories stuck with Darlene throughout her life, which is how she came to work at University Nursing Center. Her compassion and kindness shown to residents daily often capture the attention of her co-workers and families of residents. "There are still so many people who need help and I am proud at this time in my life to be one of those helpers," she said.

She helped put her husband through two college degrees, had four children (all college graduates now), and became a mother-in-law and grandma, then a widow when she decided to pursue a career in the senior nursing field. "My life circle ended up back at the beginning when I walked to the nursing home and asked if there was something I could do to be helpful."

Over the past year and a half, she has been a volunteer, activities assistant, was CNA trained, CPR certified, trained as a bus driver, trained to work with residents needing restorative assistance and now is University Nursing Center's activities director. "I am a self-educated woman and have no degrees to tell you about, but I have had a full life and am always looking for ways to improve myself so that I can be more useful to others and fulfill what I believe to be God's plan for my life."

Your usefulness is evident every day. You are a blessing to residents, their families and to University Nursing Center.

